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PRESS RELEASE

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Will change Grady's day-to-day management

Sen. Shafer to file Public Hospital Accountability Act

ATLANTA -- State Sen. David Shafer (R-Duluth) today announced plans to introduce legislation in the next session of the General Assembly that will require the Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Authority to turn over day-to-day operations of the Grady Health System to a non-profit hospital management corporation.

"The non-profit form of management is almost universally recognized as the most effective and efficient way to manage an urban public hospital, and every other county hospital authority in metro Atlanta voluntarily adopted this model," Sen. Shafer said today. "A change in governance is a necessary first step and not a 'bargaining chip' for state aid."

For county hospital authorities owning a hospital with 800 or more beds, Sen. Shafer's bill creates a non-profit hospital management corporation appointed by the authority itself, the governor, the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the House. Physician and non-physician hospital employees will be represented on the board of directors. In addition, his proposed legislation includes special conflict-of-interest provisions for board members.

Sen. Shafer is circulating a draft of the bill, called the *Public Hospital Accountability Act of 2008*, among his Senate colleagues. He has posted a draft of the bill at www.reforminggrady.org.

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Senator David Shafer is Chairman of the Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee. He represents the 48th Senate District which includes parts of Fulton and Gwinnett Counties. He may be reached at 404-656-0048 or via email at David.Shafer@senate.ga.gov.